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\* SEN. HALL WANTS CLOSURES \*

CHARLES CYP

Thank you Senator and committee members.

My name is Charles Cyp and I work at the Bristol Superior Court and I am here tonight

to speak in favor of keeping the Bristol

Superior Court open and <sup>ask you</sup> ~~not endorse~~ the Governor's

proposal to close it. I did a quick study

over the weekend and learned, that in the

last 5 months, in comparison to courts like Derby, M'Ferd,

~~and~~ and Norwalk, the # of pending

cases have increased in Bristol by 250 and the

other courts have actually decreased b/w 100 and 600

cases in that time frame. It is also that the

about

The next issue I'd like to bring to your attention is the issue of transportation. That is, transportation for the defendant's and the police departments within GA 17-Bristol.

First the defendants: people have a hard time

getting to Bristol as it is, now the Governor wants all New Britain?

Those people to get to ~~Bristol~~ Buses b/w the two cities

are virtually non-existent. I had someone tell me today

she thought in order to catch a bus to NB from Bristol

you had to go through Hartford! As a result, people

will not be making that trek to NB and you are

going to have Felons failing to appear. As for the police

departments - ~~the~~ our busiest Police Department is Bristol -

who, as it so happens, is <sup>one floor</sup> ~~several~~ below the courthouse

and they have no expense when it comes to transporting

defendants to court. Now they will in all likelihood have to add staff or take someone off patrol to transport to New Britain. As I said earlier crime in Bristol is not going down and we need those officers on the street. By closing the Court, the Governor hopes to save \$ on rent to the City - who do you think the city is going to look for to offset that rent and added expense to transport prisoners to NB?

To me - it's a wash. Just one more thing about those who fail to appear - if they FTA in Bristol - within a couple days that Failure to Appear warrant is back to the police station. If all the cases in Bristol are being transferred to New Britain - I can guarantee that the turn-around on FTA warrants will be 2-3 or maybe 4 weeks before they get back to the Police Dept.

In that same vane - that is - cases being transferred

to a court already bursting at the seams as a

result of the West Hartford Court closing, I bring

to your attention that the services being provided <sup>now</sup> will

never be provided if you ~~also~~ <sup>go</sup> along w/

The Governor's proposal. Services such as a smaller case

loads for prosecutors ~~and~~, public defenders, ~~and~~ family  
FVVA and Victim's Advocates.

Violence counselors, The defendant will just be a

number in a larger court. Because cases ~~will~~ not be

disposed <sup>of</sup> in a timely fashion - cases will lag, victims ~~will~~

will be disgruntled, witnesses may not be found when ~~needed~~

needed to testify, and defendants may lose their jobs because

of numerous continuances. This will lead to more

plea bargaining and more felons walking the streets

\* of course, seeing that no one <sup>here</sup> represents any towns  
that send defendant's to Bristol - I guess they  
won't be walking YOUR streets.

Just to emphasize - Bristol handles ~~over~~ about 700 cases a year and the  
prosecutors sign around 2100 warrants. Just put  
yourself in the position of a police officer trying to  
obtain a search warrant and ~~having~~ to go to NB or  
wherever to find an over-worked prosecutor and judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration. ~~At~~  
~~Also~~ I would like to read ~~as~~ a quote  
attributed to Petronius Arbitter, 1st Century A.D.

"We trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation in life by reorganizing. A wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization."

— Petronius Arbiter, 1st Century A. D.

Closing the British Superior Court

would not serve justice.

It will only lead to confusion,

inefficiency and demoralization.